N° 99. SATURDAY, *December 23*, 1786.

To the AUTHOR of the LOUNGER.

SIR,

WITHOUT being thought partial to the present times, I believe one may venture to ſay, that, in point of invention and diſcovery, this age very much excels any former one. In Phyſics, in Electricity, in Chemiſtry, in Mechanics, new worlds, if I may uſe the expreſſion, have been opened to our reſearches. But in Britain, we have a compendious way of calculating the number of inventions. If I am not miſinformed, there have paſſed the offices within theſe twenty years no fewer than 167 patents; ſo that this iſland alone has in that very inconſiderable ſpace added 167 diſcoveries to the ſtock of knowledge which our fathers poſſeſſed.

Nor has France been leſs productive than her ſiſter-kingdom. Beſides the balloon, of which ſhe may certainly claim the practical application, if Britain ſhall diſpute the diſcovery of the principle, there are many other inventions, equally wonderful

wonderful, though leſs brilliant, which her philoſophers have atchieved; and ſome of thoſe which his British Majeſty has ſanctioned with his royal patent, are only naturaliſed ſubjects, which had their birth in the territories of the Moſt Christian King.

Of all diſcoveries ancient or modern, the moſt uſeful perhaps, as well as the moſt wonderful, took its riſe in Paris about three years ago; I mean the *Animal Magnetiſm* of the illuſtrious *Dr. Meſmer*. This has lately been imported into England, and is now practiſed with the greateſt ſucceſs by one of the Doctor's diſciples in London. To Scotland I believe it has not yet found its way; which conſidering the ingenuity of the people, is to me ſomewhat ſurpriſing. I hope I ſhall not be thought to treſpaſs againſt the nature or deſign of your Paper, if I wiſh to make it the vehicle for communicating this invaluable diſcovery to my native country; for, notwithſtanding I have reſided chiefly abroad, I am proud to declare myſelf a Scotſman: and though, in enumerating the properties of this wonderful art, I muſt neceſſarily make uſe of technical terms; yet, as I know this city to be as it were the emporium of medicine, I flatter myſelf I ſhall here find a multitude of readers who could perfectly underſtand me, even without the tranſlation, which I ſhall endeavour

deavour to affix to moſt of the medical phraſes I make uſe of.

I do not know, Sir, whether the immortal Meſmer flouriſhed at the time you were abroad. If your travels were before his time, you may not have heard of his proceſs of magnetiſing. The ceremony is ſimple and beautiful. The company ſit in a ſaloon fitted up in the moſt elegant ſtyle, round a *baquet* or large veſſel, forming a figure like the *a-la-ronde* of a cotillion. From the baquet, which is covered and ornamented as becomes the altar of Hygeia, riſe thoſe enchanted rods, if I may uſe the expreſſion, by which the magnetic virtue communicated by the artiſt is tranſmitted. At the end of the apartment is a piano-forte and harmonica, from which the great man himſelf, who, like his predeceſſor Apollo, cultivates both medicine and ſong, brings thoſe lively airs, or dying falls, which aſſiſt or temper the effects of his divine art. Within the ſaloon is a ſmaller apartment, called the *Chambre de Criſe*; but of this the ſecrets muſt not be "to mortal ears divulged." Suffice it to ſay, that that chamber has been witneſs to the moſt wonderful effects of the medico-magnetical art that ever aſtoniſhed man. Such ſublime agonies, ſuch beautiful convulſions! I remember, before the apoſtate *Deſlon* had made the firſt ſchiſm in our faith, having

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aſſiſted in the celebrated caſe of Madame de P——, where our maſter and all the body of the initiated were preſent. There was firſt a *Paracuſis*, or imperfect hearing, changed into a *Surditas*, or complete deafneſs; changed into a *Pſeudoblepſis*, or uncertain ſight; changed into a perfect *Caligo*, or blindneſs; changed into a *Hallucinatio*, or dulneſs; changed into a *Moroſis*; changed into a *Hyſteria*; changed into a *Delirium*; changed into a *Mania*, or raging madneſs! Theſe, Sir, are the progreſſive miracles by which a phyſician ſhews the power and the utility of his art!

But my enthuſiaſm has carried me from my purpoſe, which was, humbly to announce myſelf as a diſciple and initiated of the illuſtrious Meſmer, and to offer my aſſiſtance to the genteeler part of the community here, for a cure of moſt of the diſeaſes to which they are ſubject. Though it is the advantage of our practice, that a knowledge of the patient's diſorder is nowiſe neceſſary to the cure; yet, in order to ſhew that I am not an ignorant or illiterate Quack, likely to be deceived myſelf, or to deceive others, I will ſtate the maladies, as well idiopathic as ſymptomatic, to which patients of the faſhionable and higher orders of the people are chiefly liable, which I flatter myſelf no vulgar or empty ſmatterer in phyſic could have obſerved

ſerved or delineated; all of which I undertake to cure by magnetiſm alone. In enumerating theſe diſorders, I ſhall follow the claſſification uſually adopted by the moſt eminent writers on Noſology.

Under the claſs *Pyrexiæ*, or Fevers, I have obſerved ſuch patients extremely liable to what medical writers term the *Synochus hiemalis* *, or Winter-fever. The ſymptoms are, a reſtleſſneſs, a deſire of changing place, and that ſort of horror at being alone, which is common in diſeaſes of this claſs; eſpecially when, as is the caſe here, the brain is conſiderably affected. I mention this diſorder firſt, not only from the order in which it is technically claſſed, but becauſe I wiſh to excite the attention of your readers to it more immediately, this being the ſeaſon of the year when it is apt to break out.

Another diſorder of the ſame claſs, and nearly connected with the former, is the *Synocha ſcarlatina*, a ſort of Scarlet-fever, which, like other diſorders of the kind, principally appears in the face. This diſeaſe was ſcarcely known in Scotland till within theſe twelve or fourteen years,

* *Vid.* the *Genera Morborum* of Dr. *Cullen*, p. 70. It is unneceſſary to make references as to every particular diſorder mentioned in the courſe of this Paper; the learned reader will eaſily perceive, that, except in one inſtance (the *Noſtalgia*), I have implicitly adopted the arrangement of that celebrated author.

years, being of the endemial ſort, with which only certain very large towns, like Paris and London, were ſuppoſed to be viſited. Like other fevers of this tribe, it is ſubject to the *Remiſſiones Matutinæ*, and the *Acceſſiones Veſpertinæ*, or, in common language, is hardly perceptible in the morning, but very obſervable in the evening; or ſometimes it intermits for ſeveral days at a time, though it generally leaves a great degree of *Icterus* or yellowneſs on the ſkin. It is almoſt entirely a female diſeaſe, and has this peculiar circumſtance attending it, which we may perhaps aſcribe to the difference of climate, that in France, where it has long prevailed, it chiefly affects adults and married women, but in Britain, eſpecially in Scotland, it is more frequent among the young and the unmarried.

On the other hand, there is a ſpecies of the *Phrenitis*, to which matrons and women advanced to the middle ſtage of life are more liable than thoſe of a more tender age; but as it is of a highly contagious kind, thoſe young perſons who have frequent communication with them, are very liable to be infected with it. Its ſymptoms are exactly what medical writers impute to this genus of the *Phlegmaſiæ*, "Rubor "faciei, lucis intolerantia, et pervigilium:" A redneſs of face, a hatred of the light (that is, of

of the light of the ſun), and a wakefulneſs (or very late ſitting up).

Under the claſs *Neuroſes*, or nervous, there is a great variety of diſorders to which people of the higheſt ranks are liable (to whom I beg leave to repeat, that my practice is entirely confined), which the Medico-magnetiſm entirely eradicates. The *Hypochondriaſis*, or Spleen, which is a ſort of generic name for a great variety of thoſe diſorders, it perfectly removes. I have known ſeveral pretenders to ſcience preſcribe, as a cure for this diſorder, ſomething which was evidently borrowed from our method of performing the magnetic operation; their patients ſat round a bowl inſtead of a baquet, and were touched with glaſs inſtead of ſteel. But beſides that this was only to be practiſed with male patients, it is in fact a mere palliative, not a radical remedy, and after frequent uſe is extremely apt to bring on a *Hydrophobia*.

Under this claſs may be properly enumerated the varieties of the order *Spaſmi*, or irregular motions to which people of faſhion are peculiarly liable. Young Ladies are frequently attacked with this diſorder, particularly in public places and crowded rooms, or at the near approach of the young, the faſhionable, the rich, or the noble of the other ſex. This ſpecies of the *Chorea*, which I have had occaſion to remark

in ſuch circumſtances, is perfectly cured by that art which I have the honour to profeſs; it ariſes, indeed, from a ſuperabundant degree of animal magnetiſm, and is not more remarkable in the female ſex, than is the negative ſtate of thoſe perſons of the other by whoſe approximation it is cauſed, who generally exhibit every mark of laſſitude, indifference, and inanition, or, as ſome modern phyſicians write that term, inanity. A cloſer connection, however, between theſe two ſets of patients, as may eaſily be accounted for from natural cauſes, commonly reſtores the equilibrium; or ſometimes the magnetical proportions are reverſed; the female becomes the negative or the indifferent, the male the poſitive or irritable ſubject.

Under this claſs of the nervous, and of the order to which phyſicians give the appellation *Veſaniæ*, may be mentioned the various kinds of *Melancholia* to which the higher ranks of life have been lately ſubject, particularly among the men. The *Melancholia religioſa* is now ſcarcely known, or at leaſt is nothing different from the *Melancholia vulgaris*, to which my preſcriptions do not apply. But there are other ſpecies now very frequent, which were formerly little known, though they had always a place in the liſts of Noſology; ſuch is the *Melancholia errabunda*, the wandering melancholy; the *Melancholia ſaltans*,

*tans*, the dancing melancholy; and that variety known by the name of *Melancholia hippantropica*, or horſe-jockey phrenzy; the firſt is commonly caught abroad, the laſt more frequently at home.

Under this genus, though I know it is differently claſſed by ſeveral eminent medical writers, I would enumerate the *Noſtalgia*, or that longing deſire for particular places, which affects the mind and the health of the patient. In French this is called the *Maladie de pays*; but the ſpecies moſt common in my experience is the *Maladie de la ville*, to which country Ladies in particular are extremely liable. It has this material difference from the other, that the *Maladie de pays* is cured by allowing the patients to viſit their natal ſoil. Now, though that may ſucceed with natives of countries ſuch as Switzerland or our Highlands, who are afflicted with what phyſicians term the *Noſtalgia ſimplex*, and whoſe complaint a ſingle viſit to the land of their nativity generally removes; yet, with the diſeaſe in queſtion, the *Maladie de la ville*, one, or even two or three viſits to town, rather increaſe than abate the diſorder, and abſence is found to be a much better remedy. My magnetiſm, however, effectually relieves it. There is another ſpecies of the *Noſtalgia*, which we may call the *Noſtalgia politica*, or political love of our country, which my art alſo entirely

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removes, though I muſt candidly own, that this diſorder is frequently cured by other metals beſides the magnet. Of this political diſtemper there are ſome ſpecies that rather come under the genus of the *Tympanites*, of which the ſymptoms are given by noſological writers, "Partis "morbidæ tumeſcentia ſonora, cum rejectione "aeris frequenti, et cæterarum partium debi-"litate maxima," (a diſorder puffed up and windy, with a great weakneſs of parts.) It uſed to be felt in this country only in that particular ſlighter ſort, now little known, which phyſicians term the *Tympanites Stewartii*, but of late it has raged with great violence in every ſpecies and degree.

Since I am mentioning *Switzerland*, I may take notice of another diſorder, or rather external deformity, which uſed to be reckoned peculiar to the inhabitants of the Alps, the *Barba Helvetica*, or *Gouetre*; but of late this unnatural protuberance has made amazing progreſs among the female world in Great Britain; and within theſe few weeks begins to appear alſo under the chins of the male.

As I muſt have already treſpaſſed on your patience, I forbear to enumerate a variety of diſorders under the claſs of the *Locales*, or local affections to which the faſhionable world is ſubject, and which I engage perfectly to cure by my

my medico-magnetical proceſs. Such are many of the *Dyſoſtheſiæ*, or depravation of the ſenſes; for example, the *Dyſopia proximorum*, and the *Pſeudoblepſis mutans*, in which diſeaſes perſons quite near, and formerly well known, are neither ſeen nor remembered. With this laſt diſorder, I have ſeen ſome female patients ſo much affected, as not to know their huſbands from other men; while, among the other ſex, I have ſeen huſbands who took half a dozen other women for their wives.

Among the diſeaſes of the ear, one of the moſt prevalent is the *Paracuſis imaginaria*, to which both ſexes are equally liable; and another variety of the ſame tribe, more frequent among female patients, called the *Suſurrus criticus*, or Scandal buzz.

Of the genus *Paraphoniæ*, or diſorders of the voice, we have frequent occaſion to obſerve the *Paraphonia puberum*, with which ſo many of our boys are affected; and the *Paraphonia clangens* or *reſonans*, which is ſo common a diſorder among our young ladies.

All the above-mentioned diſeaſes, and many others which I have not room to enumerate, I undertake entirely and effectually to remove by magnetiſm alone, without the intervention of any other external application, or the exhibition of any medicine whatſoever. I truſt, Sir,

the dignity of your Paper is too well known, and I am conſcious that my own intentions are too pure, to give room for ſuppoſing that any thing elſe than the love of ſcience, and a regard for our fellow-creatures, could induce either of us to communicate to the public, that I poſſeſs and mean to uſe this art for the benefit of people of rank and faſhion in this metropolis. Such will be informed of the particulars of my plan, by inquiring for Dr. F. at *Dunn's Hotel*, St. Andrew's ſtreet, left-hand ſide of the way.

I have the honour to be, &c.

L. F.

*Member of many Academies.*

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